on account of financial difficulties of the Committee. He prayed that the Government should fix a standard width for all the town lanes and gradually bring all the lanes to that standard width.

Dewan.—Has the Committee sent up a resolution on the subject?

Member.—From time to time the Committee has sent up resolutions in respect of particular lanes.

Dewan.—Does it not involve acquisition of lands?

Member.—Yes, Sir. But it will bring corresponding advantage to the land-owners on both sides of the lanes. The legislature might step in and see that the land owners get only an equitable sum.

The Member, continuing, said that some of the blocks in the town were traversed by a net work of lanes and suggested that roads should be opened right through them, so as to open out various ways and improve the sanitation.

He next suggested the desirability of covering up the Cochar channel from Palavangadi to the spot where it met the Brahman village of Chalai. It was impossible on account of the winding course of the channel to prevent the fouling of the water in it with a limited number of watchers. It was only a mile of the channel, on the borders of which people were living, that he proposed should be covered up. Further, by covering up that portion of the channel, a wide road for diverting traffic from the Chalai bazaar could be secured and that would give much relief to the present congestion on the Chalai road.

As regards street lighting, the Member said that very many portions of the town were still left unlit during nights. The Committee's recommendation for putting up additional lights was not also sanctioned. He suggested that, as the lighting of the streets in the town was entrusted to the Committee with the funds now allotted for the same, more roads and streets in the town could be lit.

He then referred to the necessity for at least a dispensary in Thycaud or at some convenient place in Chalai. When there was a hospital at Thycaud, the daily average of out-patients was above 150. The other hospitals in the town were at a great distance for the inhabitants of the eastern portion of Thycaud. If a separate dispensary could not be sanctioned, a block might be set apart in the Women and Children's Hospital for dispensing medicines to males.

Lastly, he requested that early steps should be taken for the removal of the night-soil depot from its present undesirable site on the beach. The present site was not fit for decomposition and the breeze charged with it passed into the centre of the town. The Government had already sanctioned the transfer of the depot to Poojapura, but the site was not handed over to the Committee after effecting the necessary improvements. He requested that the improvements and the construction of the approach-road might be effected soon and the site handed over to the Committee at an early date.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

97. The finances of the Trivandrum Town Improvement Committee.

Mr. U. Padmanabha Kukilaya, M. A., B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) said that there was a total absence of any definite municipal policy for the State. In the interests of municipal administration it was absolutely necessary that the Government should clearly define the exact scope of the work that each township should attend to, the resources out of which the expenses should be met, the proportionate amounts that should be spent under particular heads, and the ratio between the Government grant and the total expenses of the Committee. All those should be regulated by the area and population of the towns. Such a policy was clearly defined in British India.

Dewan.—In the proposed draft Bill for amending the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation, there are provisions relating to some of the points mentioned by the Member.

The Member continued and said that, with the constitution of the Town Improvements, Committees as a separate fund department in 1084, the Government

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grant to the Trivandrum Committee was being steadily reduced. From 1081 to 1090, during ten years, the amount of ordinary grant had fallen from Rs. 43,250 to Rs. 25,000. At the same time, several items of expenditure, which were formerly either non-existent or met out of the general revenues, were forced on the Committee. The pay and allowances of the official President, increase of pay to the Health Officer, pensionary contribution, cost of stationery and printing and vaccine lymph, etc., were the most important among them and those items consumed more than Rs. 9,000 every year. He said that the President and the Health Officer were of the same pay and status, though one worked under the other. The waste of public money involved in such an arrangement was officially brought to the notice of Government but nothing was done towards a solution of the problem. He proposed that either a non-official should be appointed as President, or an official President as at present with a Health Officer recruited from time to time from the lowest grade of Assistant Surgeons, or that a medical officer should be appointed as President, dispensing with the post of Health Officer. What the Committee wanted was to save some money, coupled with the maintenance of efficiency. There were several things which the Committee wanted to do for the better sanitation of the town but were unable to do for want of funds. The most important of them were the following.

(1) *Sweeping and Conservancy.*—The length of the lanes in the town which were more than 6 ft. wide was about 101 miles. The Committee had now made arrangements for the sweeping of only 30 miles of that length, for want of funds. The whole length of 101 miles of lanes at least required daily sweeping, not to speak of the side lanes which were in a very insanitary condition.

(2) *Watering of roads.*—The important roads in the town required watering at least in the hot months of the year. The Committee proposed to do so last year at a cost of Rs. 2,500 but the Government said that the proposal was not acceptable. He pleaded that it was a very important question from a municipal standpoint.

(3) *Flushing of drains.*—The Member said that the condition of the Trivandrum drains had become so very degenerated that the people preferred not to have masonry drains. There was not sufficient number of men under the Committee nor sufficient quantity of water in the town during the hot season to flush the drains and to water the roads.

(4) *Carts and bulls.*—In spite of the best efforts of the Committee, the number of carts and bulls used for the purpose of removing the rubbish was quite inadequate and the funds at the disposal of the Committee could not meet the growing demand. The result was that dirt and rubbish could not be removed as expeditiously as they ought to be.

(5) *Inspection of house-building.*—There was a provision in the Regulation that those who proposed to construct a building in the town should apply for a license with a sketch and specification. The Committee's Health Officer was expected to inspect the building-sites and propose any alteration in the plan that was necessary in the interests of sanitation. As the Health Officer was no Engineer and as he had very little time at his disposal, the house-building licenses had become almost a farce. He therefore proposed that the Committee should have the services of an officer having some respectable knowledge in Sanitary Engineering.

(6) *Certain other proposals.*—The Member said that the Committee's proposal made last year to increase the annual grant by Rs. 10,000 was not sanctioned by the Government. They then proposed to introduce a tax on professions to raise the necessary funds but the Government vetoed the proposal. If the question of the sanitation was not better attended to, the condition of the health of the town would become very miserable. Typhoid and other fevers had taken firm root in the town. The Government should either help the Committee with the necessary funds or allow them to raise the same by local taxation. With a view to find funds, he made the following proposals for the consideration of the Government:—

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(*a*) The Government should, in consideration of the importance of the town and also in consideration of the many things for which the people of the town were not directly responsible, substantially increase the annual grant to the Committee.

(*b*) The Committee should be allowed greater freedom in the matter of levying taxes and also new powers of taxation and levying of fees.

(*c*) The vaccination charges should be entirely remitted. He said that it was not reasonable that the people of the town alone should pay for the lymph while those outside the town were granted the same free.

(*d*) The revenue received from stamps on petitions presented to the officers of the Committee should be credited to the Town Fund. The Committee had to take action on the petitions and in some cases to spend money in that direction while the receipts from stamps were credited to the general revenues. The Member argued that the case of State departments stood on a different footing as their expenditure was met from the general revenues.

(*e*) Till the tax proposed on vehicles and animals was sanctioned by the Government, the amount now realised by the Police Department from the owners of hackney carriages should be credited to the Town Fund.

Dewan.—Have you any idea as to the amount now collected by the Police under this head?

Member.—Roughly, it will be about three or four thousand rupees per annum.

The Member, in conclusion, requested that his representations might receive favourable consideration and that the question of the imposition of the tax on vehicles and animals, now before the Government, might be favourably disposed of.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The Government have sanctioned the imposition of the tax on animals and vehicles.

98. Need for Government help to meet some requirements of the town of Shencottah.

Mr. B. Aunda Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) said that the survey of the taluk, and particularly of the town of Shencottah, was conducted in a most irregular fashion. The minor circuits and sub-divisions, in many cases, did not agree with the situation of the lands to which they referred. There were instances of one item of land having been numbered as house site in one pattah and as garden land in another. Similarly, the same number was included in more than one house-site. The actual measurements of land differed from the accounts in some cases. There were also several house sites which were entered in the registers and pattas granted in respect of them but those sites were omitted from the survey plan. The Member quoted specific instances for all the above irregularities. He requested that the town should be re-surveyed and, if that could not be done, the porambokes in the town over which the Committee had control should at least be specifically demarcated, so that they might take action in respect of encroachments on them.

He next said that the supply of good drinking water was scarce in the town. There were only four wells. More wells should be sunk to the east of the taluk office and other places. The balance at the disposal of the Committee was only Rs. 1,000 and they were therefore unable to do the work from the Town Fund. He suggested the desirability of introducing water through pipes from the Melur tank. In the meantime, the well in the Cutcherry compound should be made available to the people of the town. A satrom should be constructed for the use of the travelling public and, till that was built, a *vazhiambalam* should at least be provided.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. A re-survey of the town at the cost of Government has been ordered so far back as April 1915.

99. Needs of the town of Kayankulam.

Mr. A. Krishna Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Kayankulam) said that Kayankulam was more centrally situated for the location of the Munsiff's Court and urged that the court now held in a rented building at Krishnapuram might be transferred to Kayankulam.

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